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LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1952



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1952

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. D. Dillamore, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

W. E. Durrell, Esq.

COUNCILLORS:

Mrs. D. Dillamore
F. G. Dillamore, Esq.
Mrs. M. B. Heady
E. Miles, Esq.
J. J. E. Pilson, Esq.
V. C. Spary, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. D.H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Retd.)

SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR:

Leonard W. Eves, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Council Offices,
6, Leighton Road,
LINSLADE.

27th July, 1953

To the Chairman and Members of
the Urban District Council of Linslade

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952.

The Birth Rate although less than last year is still
satisfactory. It is the third highest of all the County
Districts and is also higher than the rate for England and Wales.

The Death Rate shows a slight drop from last year but it
is still higher than the County Rate or that for England and
Wales. Of the 41 deaths, 29 were due to Heart Disease and
allied diseases.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a rise compared with
last year. There were actually 2 deaths in this group, both
under the age of 4 weeks.

In the realm of Infectious Diseases, we unfortunately had
3 cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) notified.
Two of the cases were paralytic and one non-paralytic. Two
were adults and one a school child. All cases progressed well.
The epidemiology of this disease continues to present a problem
to Public Health Authorities. There was no connection between
any of our three cases or indeed with any other cases elsewhere.
None of the contacts developed the disease.

I should like to record another happy year of co-operation
with your Clerk, Mr. P.J. Uphill, and your Surveyor and Sanitary
Inspector, Mr. L.W. Eves.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D.H. WALDRON

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952

(A) VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL

								<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,693	1,693
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,269	3,365
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,016	1,056
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£19,117	£20,123
Rate in the £	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25/-	26/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£76	£79

2. BIRTHS

Legitimate (male)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	30
" (female)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	27
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.1	16.9
" " " " " (Bucks)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.1	15.2
" " " " " (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.5	15.3

3. DEATHS

Males	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	14
Females	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	27
Death Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.9	12.2
" " " " (Bucks)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.8	9.9
" " " " (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.5	11.3
Still Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
" " " (Bucks)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.5	0.66
" " " (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.79	0.72

4. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

								<u>1951</u>			<u>1952</u>		
								M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6	0	2	2
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haemorrhage into Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	6	4	5	9
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	7	17	7	13	20
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	3	3	0	0	0
Bronchitis & other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	2	0	2
Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	1	0	0	0
Congenital Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	1	1
Suicide & Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	2	0	1	1
All other causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	7	1	5	6
Totals								<u>18</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>41</u>

5. INFANTILE MORTALITY

								<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr. per 1,000 births								16.9	35.1
" " " " " " " "							"(Bucks)	24.6	25.0
" " " " " " " "							"(England & Wales)	29.6	27.6
Deaths from Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
" " Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil

(B) GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton. This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services were taken over by the County Council from 6th July, 1948. For general cases, accidents and infectious disease, three motor ambulances are maintained in the district.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

This, as also her maternity duties, was carried out by the District Nurse in her usual efficient manner.

4. CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A centre at The Forster Institute has held regular sessions on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. A Medical Officer attends once a month, and the District Nurse and Health Visitor each session.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have received cases from the area:-

Luton and Dunstable
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury
Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury
Spittlesea Hospital, Luton
Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury

(C) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

Consumption during the year was 41,400,000 gallons. The Council's two boreholes continued to yield satisfactorily. A licence to sink a further borehole was received at the end of the year and authorisation in principle was given for a new rising main and reservoir level recording equipment.

Of samples submitted for bacteriological examination, 14 taken from the reservoir were satisfactory, and 1 unsatisfactory. 15 taken from various points on the distribution system were satisfactory and two not up to standard. In the case of the unsatisfactory results repeat samples from the same points were highly satisfactory.

Chemical examination of a sample taken on the 22nd October 1952 was reported upon as follows:-

Chemical Results
in Parts per Million

Appearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bright with a few mineral particles
Turbidity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 3
Colour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Odour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
pH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.4
Free Carbon Dioxide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Electric Conductivity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	620
Total Solids	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	415
Chlorine present as Chloride	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	265
Hardness: Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	360
Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	265
Non-Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Nitrite Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.034
Oxygen Absorbed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.25
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Residual Chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

"Apart from the objection that the water tends to be very hard, these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome character and suitability for public supply purposes."

1043 houses were supplied with water direct from the public mains and nine by means of standpipes. It is estimated that 99.6% of the population of the district receive water from the public supply.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Following the submission of a report by the Council to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government requesting permission to carry out improvements at the sewage disposal works, an Engineering Inspector visited Linslade to examine the proposals. The Minister subsequently requested that the possibility of combined sewage disposal arrangements for Linslade and Leighton Buzzard should be examined. A further report was therefore being prepared by the Consulting Engineers.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly house and trade refuse collection was carried out very satisfactorily.

We continued to use the Leighton Buzzard Refuse Tip on an agreed financial basis.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Periodic inspections of the canal, rivers and streams within the Urban District did not reveal any serious pollution.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools suitable for bathing within the Urban District.

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary, which is the joint responsibility of this authority and the Wing Rural District Council, was used only once during the year.

(D) H O U S I N G

Thirty-one Council dwellings were finished and occupied during the year, completing the Soulbury Road Housing Site as originally envisaged.

It had been found possible to build a further eight flats on the site and construction was proceeding satisfactorily at the end of the year.

Tenders for advance preparation works at the Mentmore Road Housing Site were sought towards the end of the year.

Six houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

One hundred and fifty-eight Council houses and forty-one private enterprise houses have been built in Linslade since the war.

Twenty-one informal notices were served for the execution of housing repairs. Seven Statutory Notices were necessary to secure the carrying out of the works required.

(E) NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS, ETC.

1. GENERAL

Complaints of nuisance were dealt with by informal action. Sixteen notices were served during the year, and three Statutory Notices.

2. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

No action was necessary under the above mentioned Act during the year. Form 572 has been completed.

3. MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1926-1948

The dairies within the Urban District were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

4. ICE CREAM

Regular inspections of retail premises were made.

Of the 37 samples taken, 18 were in Grade 1, 13 were in Grade 2, 5 were in Grade 3, and 1 in Grade 4.

As regards the Grade 3 and 4 samples, action was taken to effect an improvement.

5. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the district.

6. UNSOUND FOOD

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of food found to be unfit for human consumption, as follows:-

2 tins of fish	2 tins of soup
8 " " vegetables	12 lbs. sausages
6 " " milk	4 lbs. marmalade
26 " " meat	7 tins of fruit

7. RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ORDERS, 1919-1943

Regular inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were undertaken by the Council's Rodent Operator, whose services are shared with Leighton Buzzard U.D.C.

Destruction work was carried out as follows:-

Dwelling houses	.. ..	50
Business Premises	.. ..	6

Sewer inspections were made, and test baiting and maintenance treatment carried out as required by the Ministry of Food.

(F) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

Notifications of Measles and Pneumonia showed a drop compared with the previous year. Three cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) were notified, two of which were paralytic and one non-paralytic.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	1951	1952
Whooping Cough	Nil	3
Measles	60	45
Scarlet Fever	2	4
Pneumonia	16	11
Food Poisoning	3	Nil
Dysentery	1	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil
Anterior Poliomyelitis	Nil	3
Erysipelas	Nil	1

3. CANCER

There were 2 deaths during the year compared with 6 in 1951 and 10 in 1950.

4. TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. Four cases were notified.

D.H. WALDRON

Medical Officer of Health

